United Nations A/68/166

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2013
English
Original: English/Russian/Spanish

Sixty-eighth session
Item 99 (t) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/48 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security and, in this regard, noted the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security.

3. The General Assembly also urged Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels and called upon all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts. It also requested the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of resolution 67/48. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

5. In this connection, a note verbale dated 25 February 2013 was sent to all Member States seeking their views on the subject. A memorandum dated 17 April 2013 was also dispatched to relevant United Nations system entities. Member States and relevant United Nations system entities were invited to provide summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the present report, and, if they so requested, their more extensive submissions are posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The replies received as at 18 July 2013 are contained in sections II and IV of the present report. A reply from the European Union was received and is reproduced in section III, in accordance with modalities set out in resolution 65/276. Additional replies will be issued in an addendum to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2013]

The Government of Argentina, both as a troop contributor and as a defender of the human rights of populations in conflict, is committed to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolutions, and to the resolutions of the General Assembly on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

In keeping with the purposes of those resolutions and with the political support of the President, the Government of Argentina has implemented a policy of gender mainstreaming in the Ministries of Defence and Security, which has helped to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in those spheres. Noteworthy elements include the national plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the area of defence, approved by the relevant authorities in 2008, and the countless measures taken to empower women members of the armed and security forces.

Argentina also supports the increase in the number of women in decision-making positions in domestic and international coordination mechanisms working on disarmament issues, especially the illicit trade in small arms, and local participation by women through the activities of various non-governmental organizations dedicated to disarmament. In that regard, Argentina welcomes the recent appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of an Argentine woman as one of the nine expert members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Lastly, in 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship called on all organizations working on issues related to women, peace and security and on civil society representatives to draft a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolutions. Several non-governmental organizations working on peace and security and gender issues took part in the process.

The draft plan brings together the comments made by women who were consulted by the United Nations in connection with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000). The women identified the need for progress in various areas, including the establishment of safe environments for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, for which the involvement of women in disarmament processes is essential.

Australia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2013]

Australia strongly supports and promotes the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and the broader women, peace and security agenda will continue to be a core priority for Australia during its term on the Security Council.

Over the past three years, Australia has actively supported women's participation in regional and international Arms Trade Treaty and Programme of Action discussions to ensure that the voices of women are heard on disarmament and arms control. Australia co-hosted the March 2012 Brisbane Pacific regional workshop on the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action on Small Arms with the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and Oxfam, where prominent female leaders of non-governmental organizations from the Pacific and the Caribbean spoke about the specific impacts of illicit small arms on women and the important role of civil society organizations in disarmament.

Australia has also supported the Women's Institute for Alternative Development in holding three regional workshops in the Caribbean. The workshops produced a common regional position on the Arms Trade Treaty among Caribbean Community members that cemented the importance of including gender in the text of the Arms Trade Treaty. During negotiations towards the adoption of the Treaty, Australia consistently supported the inclusion of strong humanitarian references in the Treaty, including the recognition of victims of gender-based violence, which are now reflected in the preamble.

Australia also supported the participation of Pacific and Caribbean women's civil society organizations in Treaty negotiations for three years through the International Seminar Support Scheme of the Australian Agency for International Development. Where government officials were supported by the Scheme, Australia ensured gender balance so that women are given the opportunity to represent their Governments at a senior level at the United Nations.

At the domestic level, the Australian Government Office for Women, in cooperation with relevant Australian agencies, has developed a national action plan on women, peace and security to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions to protect and empower women and girls in fragile, conflict and post-conflict situations. For the past three years, Australia has strongly supported the application of women to participate (successful in 2012) in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme.

In September 2011, the Government appointed Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls. The Ambassador is responsible for high-level international advocacy to advance the political, economic and social empowerment of women and girls, with a focus on the women, peace and security agenda.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2013]

The Government of the Republic of Colombia would like to note the following ways of giving women a greater role in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- Highlighting the links between the presence of arms and the potentially significant increase in domestic violence, as well as the greater risk of such violence

- Acknowledging the commitment and leadership of women in policymaking, especially where security is concerned
- Incorporating into public security policies the issue of violence against women in both the public and private domains
- Encouraging boys, girls and adolescents to reject models of masculinity and femininity associated with the power conferred by arms
- Ensuring that women participate in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes
- Stepping up campaigns to prevent domestic small arms use and publicize the links between small arms and various forms of domestic violence.

Colombia has a national public policy on gender equity, which includes a plan to guarantee a life free of violence. The policy was drafted by the Presidential Advisory Council on Equity for Women and launched by President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón on 12 September 2012.

This policy seeks to implement a coordinated series of strategic sectoral actions to overcome discrimination and guarantee the exercise of women's rights, thus generating benefits for the entire population in the form of a society that is more equitable, inclusive, prosperous and peaceful.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2013]

The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have an important role to play in monitoring the international commitments made by United Nations Member States for the advancement of the world's women.

States must make progress towards achieving full gender equality and empowering women at all levels, including through their participation in promoting international peace and security.

Cuba recognizes the importance of strengthening women's participation at all levels of decision-making in domestic and international institutions for policymaking in areas related to peace.

As the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognized, women have played a leading role in the worldwide movement for peace and general disarmament. Women also play an essential role in the efforts to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The promotion of equal opportunities for women as representatives in decision-making processes in the spheres of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control will also constitute an important contribution to international peace and security.

Cuba has achieved enormous progress in relation to women's inclusion in the workforce, education and health and in terms of their participation in political life, as a result of public policies to benefit the Cuban people and women in particular.

strategy that encompasses prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration is being developed at present.

Despite these efforts, there is a need for international cooperation through technical assistance and capacity-building support to enable the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Jamaica will continue to remain engaged on issues to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and will remain unwavering in its support for disarmament in all its aspects, including nuclear disarmament. Jamaica remains hopeful that the international community will demonstrate the political will necessary to achieve this.

Lithuania[1]

[Original: English]
[6 June 2013]

Lithuania warmly welcomed the initiative by Trinidad and Tobago to table the resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which it co-sponsored in 2010 and 2012.

The initiatives related to the role of women in peace and security, including disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, are significant to Lithuania in terms of strengthening the role of women in Lithuanian society and promoting the importance of these issues internationally.

Implementation at the national level

In the field of international security, including disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, Lithuania has adopted a number of documents aimed at strengthening the role of women:[2]

- Gender equality in the national defence system was first included in the national programme on equality between women and men of 2010-2014.
- On 28 December 2011, the national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was adopted.
- On 9 March 2012, the national plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the national defence system of Lithuania was adopted.
- On 24 May 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a seminar on the national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Efforts at the international and regional levels

Lithuania is consistently raising gender-related issues at various United Nations forums, including open debates of the Security Council on women and

[2] Information and documents related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Lithuania are available from www.urm.lt/index.php?921391448.

peace and security and the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.[3]

Lithuania welcomed the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and was among its first signatories. Throughout the negotiations, the country supported the inclusion of norms that would prevent transfers that could be used to perpetrate acts of gender-based and sexual violence.

At the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Lithuania called upon States to take due account of gender and age in the context of small arms.

Emphasizing the importance of women in international peace and security is no less important at the regional level. As Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2011 and the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation in 2013, Lithuania presented and supported a number of initiatives related to women in security, in particular arms control.

Netherlands[1]

[Original: English]
[19 June 2013]

The Netherlands pursues an active struggle against the uncontrolled proliferation of and the unregulated, illicit flow of arms, which feed armed violence, terrorism and crime, undermining security, human rights and stability. The resulting global cost of hundreds of thousands of lives requires an operational approach.

The Netherlands stresses the importance of incorporating context-based gender perspectives in disarmament discussions, as women and men are affected in different ways by issues related to weapons of mass destruction, small arms and light weapons, landmines and disarmament and development.

Consequently, the Netherlands has actively pushed for references to gender perspectives, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related United Nations resolutions in international negotiations and the implementation of agreements on tackling the illicit and uncontrolled spread of weapons and ammunition, such as the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Furthermore, the Netherlands supports programmes related to disarmament, such as mine clearance and mine awareness, the safe storage of weapons and ammunition, the regulation of and transparency in arms trade and the training of (female) security and police forces, as part of the Netherlands foreign and development policy. The Netherlands takes the needs of men, women and children into account and cooperates with non-governmental and regional organizations. As sexual and gender-based violence is often conducted in situations of conflict and is related to the illicit trade in arms, the Netherlands supports activities aimed at ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.

[3] Statements of Lithuania are available from http://un.mfa.lt.

In addition, the Netherlands supports the building of knowledge on the linkages between disarmament and gender. Understanding the relationships between gender and security is relevant in achieving the international goals of disarmament. In this regard, the Netherlands supports the work of non-governmental organizations and knowledge institutions, such as evidence-based research, publications and panel discussions. The International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament provides an important platform in which to further the engagement of actors. The Netherlands also initiates training on integrating comprehensive gender perspectives in peace operations to provide diplomats and military and civilian experts with operational tools and knowledge.

Disarmament can be strengthened through the integration of gender insights into disarmament debates, decision-making and actions and through more equitable participation of women in decision-making. This is in line with the second national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) (2012-2015), creating an enabling environment for female leadership and active (political) participation at the national, subnational and local levels. Women have essential roles in reaching sustainable peace and security as early warners of conflict, combatants, peacebuilders, activists and political leaders. The Netherlands remains committed to supporting women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Portugal[1]

[Original: English]
[6 June 2013]

Recommendations

Portugal believes that women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control would step up their effectiveness and legitimacy. On the basis of its own national experience, Portugal is convinced that the following measures would bring about improvements with regard to that issue.

- Implementation of policies with a view to promoting the recruitment of women to the security forces.
- Establishment of national plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
- Investment in training specific to women in other levels of decision-making.
- Data collection and analysis of the results of disarmament processes with different levels of participation of women.

International instruments

Portugal pays special attention to small arms and light weapons, including firearms, in the context of gender-based violence and violence against women. This is why Portugal supported the addition of gender-based violence as a parameter that has to be considered when exporting arms, according to the Arms Trade Treaty. Portugal signed the Treaty on 3 June 2013.

In addition, Portugal welcomes the outcomes of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of

Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2012.

Situation at the national level

Women are affected in various ways by violence as a result of the use of firearms. In Portugal, the majority of legal firearms belong to men of Portuguese nationality. Between 2003 and 2008, there were 985 deaths from the use of firearms in Portugal. Of those, 225 (24 per cent) were women. Between 2007 and 2009, there were 191 cases involving the use of firearms in situations of domestic violence, which corresponds to 13 per cent of total cases involving the use of weapons in that context (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2007-2009).

Portugal's interpretation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is comprehensive and includes, besides the approach to armed conflict and humanitarian assistance, the internal promotion of coherence of national policies regarding disarmament, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, public safety and gender-based violence in the defence of human rights of women and girls. This is stated in the 2009-2013 national action plan to implement the resolution. Furthermore, Portugal is striving to ensure the balanced representation of women and men at all decision-making levels, in particular in the security sector. Positive results are shown in its more detailed views submitted to the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Switzerland[1]

[Original: English]
[30 May 2013]

Swiss foreign policy in the area of peace and security endorses an approach that is gender-sensitive and considers the different needs of women and men in an adequate and appropriate manner. Gender equality is an important cornerstone in the pursuit of sustainable, resilient and lasting peace. In this context, the protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, the reinforcement of their human rights and the encouragement of their participation in peace and other political processes are paramount.

Switzerland includes gender-sensitive approaches in all its peace and security policy endeavours, as well as in operational programmes. It thereby sensitizes its partners to be equally attentive to gender issues in their projects. The gender perspective is thus well embedded in Swiss disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control endeavours, which fall under the national peace and security policy. Switzerland has also developed a national action plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. In a "whole of government" approach, all relevant actors of the Swiss Confederation have committed to concrete measures that are regularly monitored and reviewed. This includes gender-sensitive budgeting for programmes supported by Switzerland and projects in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as well as measures to increase the number of women in disarmament affairs.

Switzerland regularly addresses gender issues in its statements in multilateral forums, be it in the framework of the United Nations or in the context of other

relevant disarmament regimes. For instance, Switzerland embedded strong gender dimensions in its strategies regarding mine action and small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, Switzerland is a strong promoter of gender-inclusive approaches in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and in international small arms and light weapons instruments. Finally, Switzerland welcomes the inclusion of gender-specific considerations in the discourse on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Trinidad and Tobago[1]

[Original: English]
[3 June 2013]

Trinidad and Tobago has been the main sponsor of resolutions 65/69 and 67/48 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

International efforts

- Trinidad and Tobago convened a high-level side event in the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly which provided an opportunity to expand the discourse on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
- The publication *Forces of Change: Profiles of Latin American and Caribbean Women Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms* was launched at the side event on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Regional efforts

The following regional seminars and conferences were hosted to provide disarmament and arms control training to security personnel including women:

- July 2010: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean firearms destruction and stockpile management assistance package for Caribbean States.
- April and October 2011 and April 2012: inter-institutional training course on combating trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives.
- June 2012: regional round table on combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons through strengthened border controls.
- March 2013: bioresponse workshop in collaboration with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.
- April 2013: three-day workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

National implementation

Locally, equal opportunities have been promoted for women's participation at the decision-making level in matters regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control in the following ways:

- Ascendancy of women to senior ranks of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.
- The posts of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) and Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of overseeing the Police Armour Shop are held by women.
- The Organized Crime Narcotics and Firearms Bureau, which is the main branch of the Police Service mandated to investigate illegal firearms activities, has been headed by a female police officer and routinely assigns several female police officers to conduct its investigations.
- The Trinidad and Tobago delegation during the preparatory meetings for the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, were composed mainly of women.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[31 May 2013]

In the Department of International Security and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, women account for one third of the diplomatic staff and head two of the five divisions.

III. Reply received from the European Union[1]

[Original: English]
[7 June 2013]

As stated by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, it is harder to achieve lasting peace and security in any country or any region when only half of the population is represented at a negotiating table or in talks on post-conflict reconstruction. The European Union considers the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control crucial. The role of women in these areas can be enhanced by promoting gender consciousness and integrating women in the process.

On 8 December 2008 the Council of the European Union adopted the European Union comprehensive approach on Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security and the operational paper on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as reinforced by resolution 1820 (2008) in the context of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy, which aims to make Common Security and Defence Policy missions gender conscious. Member States of the European Union have adopted individual national action plans.

The European Union is of the view that a gender perspective should be included in the aid modalities of donors for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. A European Union concept paper on support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration underlined the increased understanding that the

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process as such should focus on ex-combatants and needs to include not only those carrying a weapon but also non-fighters associated with armed groups, including women and girls.

All European Union crisis management missions and operations include human rights and gender expertise. It is foreseen that the availability of and access to gender training would increase through the development of European Union standard elements for a training curriculum.

Women, girls, boys and men may be affected in different ways by mines and explosive remnants of war. They may also have different priorities in the survey and clearance of mine-affected areas. The European Union therefore calls upon all actors engaged in mine action to ensure that all human beings benefit on an equal basis from mine action activities.

In April 2012 the European Union and UN-Women signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of working better together on gender and justice, women's leadership and political participation; women's access to economic empowerment; combating sexual and gender-based violence; humanitarian aid; women and peace and security; and women's empowerment in global issues.

With regard to women's underrepresentation in mediation processes and peace negotiations, an important dimension of the women, peace and security agenda, the European Union has a clear commitment to promote the representation of women and the availability of adequate resources for dedicated mediation gender expertise from an early stage of the mediation process onwards.

IV. Replies received from the United Nations system

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

[Original: English]
[10 June 2013]

The community-based labour-intensive projects of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur were initiated to foster the conditions for a full-scale disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The projects target at-risk youth, and the goal is for 30 per cent of the beneficiaries to be female.

During the current fiscal year, the community violence reduction programme of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, reoriented in 2007 from a classic disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, assisted more than 1,000 women through various projects focusing on vocational training, job placement and business management. The programme aims to foster stabilization through financial independence and training of vulnerable women in crime-affected areas.

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[10 June 2013]

The Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, through the implementation of its gender mainstreaming action plan (2003), continues to further disarmament objectives through gender-sensitive programmes, activities and policies both at Headquarters and through its regional centres in Lima, Lomé and Kathmandu. The Office has sought to promote equal opportunities for women in all decision-making processes with regard to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and underscore the valuable contribution that women can make to practical disarmament measures. When undertaking new programmes and initiatives at Headquarters and through its regional centres, the Office seeks to ensure that there is a gender component.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has consistently promoted the participation of women in disarmament programmes and activities and in relevant, mandated forums, including the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, Groups of Governmental Experts and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. Moreover, the participation of female experts in activities carried out under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), specifically the many regional workshops organized by the Office, is strongly promoted. Likewise, the Office for Disarmament Affairs encourages Member States to nominate female participants for its disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation training courses for security sector officials and technical and scientific experts.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continuously championed women as agents of change by providing States with the tools to facilitate the incorporation of gender perspectives into small arms control and disarmament, including through the document entitled "Mainstreaming gender for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms".

The Office's regional centres have been particularly active in highlighting the importance of the participation of women in disarmament-related initiatives. In September 2012, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean launched the publication *Forces of Change: Profiles of Latin American and Caribbean Women Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms* (available from www.unlirec.org/documents/ women_in_ fame.pdf), which features the experiences and skills of 58 women from national Government security sectors, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations working in the field of small arms control. It previously hosted the first women-only inter-institutional course on combating firearms trafficking (September 2011). Furthermore, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa organized two training workshops in Togo in 2012, in partnership with the Government of Togo, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to strengthen the capacities of security officials in policing electoral processes with specific modules devoted to preventing violence against women and gender-related issues.

Similarly, a new publication in the Civil Society and Disarmament series[4] featuring two articles addressing the participation of women in disarmament policy, education and advocacy, as well as gender-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, was launched at Headquarters in April 2013. Through this publication, the Office for Disarmament Affairs sought to highlight the increased interconnectedness between disarmament and other issues, including women's empowerment and participation. Among other themes, the publication underscores how progress in disarmament has significant implications for gender equality.

United Nations Children's Fund[1]

[Original: English]
[10 June 2013]

In 2012, the regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Americas and the Caribbean developed and launched a multi-country initiative to address high levels of armed violence and their impact on children and adolescents in the region, taking an integrated rights-based approach to armed violence prevention and reduction. The strategic three-pronged approach of the initiative includes strengthening data and evidence on the impact of armed violence on children, including differential impacts on girls and boys of different ages; integrating armed violence prevention and reduction into institutional child protection systems and mechanisms, including in the development of national and local policies and plans to prevent violence against children and women; and supporting community-based child-centred armed violence prevention and reduction programmes while ensuring gender-balanced community participation in their planning and implementation. Acknowledging the reinforcing and intergenerational nature of various forms of violence (armed, domestic, gender-based violence and physical and sexual abuse, etc.) in various environments (homes, communities, institutions), armed violence prevention and reduction efforts are integrated within wider efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children and women. Countries in the Americas and the Caribbean in which UNICEF is implementing armed violence prevention and reduction programmes include Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

In addition, UNICEF continues to support efforts to address the impact of weapons on children and women in armed conflict and post-conflict settings. This includes continued leadership of the mine/explosive remnants of war risk education pillar within mine action, with mine/explosive remnants of war risk education programmes ongoing in more than 20 countries. UNICEF is also active in advocating for increased investment in and commitment to the establishment of systematic and sustainable weapons-related injury surveillance systems, including ensuring age and gender disaggregation in data collection and management. In Nepal, with support from UNICEF, the countrywide surveillance system on armed violence has made an improved response to the age and gender dimensions of

[4] Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays* (New York, 2012). Available from www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/CivilSocietyAndDisarmament/2012/NGO_pub_2012.pdf.

weapons threats possible through the availability of disaggregated data to inform mine action, assistance to victims of weapons-related injury, and armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives, such as the countrywide public awareness campaign against gun violence. In such countries as Libya, UNICEF is also increasingly involved in small arms and light weapons awareness-raising and risk education. This includes highlighting the differential impacts of small arms and light weapons on girls, boys, women and men, building the capacity of the media to appropriately report on the misuse of small arms and light weapons, and disseminating risk education and safe behaviour messages through a variety of channels, including through radio spots, talk shows and billboards.

United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]
[13 June 2013]

In order to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in decision-making processes in matters of disarmament, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has, through the sponsorship programmes (2011-2013) for the Arms Trade Treaty conferences, provided support to 13 women from nine countries and one regional organization to participate in these decision-making processes. In addition to this, the UNDP sponsorship programme ensured female participation from two countries during the session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (19-23 March 2012), as well as during the Conference (27 August-7 September 2012).

In 2012, UNDP, through its support for policy and strategy development, provided assistance to ensure the inclusion of gender dimensions into national policies and strategies on small arms control and armed violence reduction. In Burundi, for example, the Government has adopted a five-year national action plan on civilian disarmament and small arms control, which focuses on ensuring that women's needs are addressed. As part of security and arms control interventions at the community level, UNDP has ensured women's participation, through for example specific focus group discussions, in the development and implementation of projects addressing security needs. For example, in El Salvador the number of women murdered each day went down from 1.7 in 2011 to 0.9 in 2012. UNDP has contributed to this result through its support to violence reduction initiatives in more than 20 municipalities. Countries and areas where projects have been implemented include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Liberia, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Kosovo.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women[1]

[Original: English]
[5 June 2013]

Background

It is known that mostly men manufacture, sell, collect and use guns and that the majority of homicide victims are men. However, globally, the enormous majority of women who die as a result of gun violence are victims of intimate partner violence. Unfortunately, an effective policy to change this does not exist because of a lack of reliable, sex-disaggregated data to link how small arms and light weapons exacerbate gender inequality. Furthermore, basic concepts and methods for data collection and analysis lack international standards.

Threats, assault and various forms of physical and sexual violence are harder to quantify mainly because so many of these cases go unreported. In addition, victims are often undereducated about their rights and where to seek help. Furthermore, proving that a victim was threatened at gunpoint constitutes a complex legal challenge, since the prosecution needs to establish, among other things, that the suspected perpetrator was in possession of a firearm and that the firearm was operable. Even if a proper legal defence system exists, victims can rarely afford a proper lawyer.

Activities of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In 2012 and 2013, UN-Women played a crucial role in supporting women in making their voices heard in the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty. In addition to helping women's civil society representatives lobby Member States to include gender-responsive language, capacity-building workshops and networking events were also organized, including an event on the theme "Women's human rights: the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".[5]

UN-Women also supported the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, during which the Commission, in its agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, recognized that the illicit use of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons aggravates violence, inter alia, against women and girls (E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11).

In the end, the Arms Trade Treaty included strong provisions for gender-based violence.

Recommendations

- Through their national arms control mechanisms, Member States should ensure that all information collected is disaggregated by sex.

[5] A brief summary is available from www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/ATT/side_event-_att_and_cedaw_summary.pdf.

- Member States should also ensure that women are adequately represented in all decision-making forums related to disarmament and arms control.
- A minimum of 15 per cent of all recovery spending, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and community security and arms control initiatives, must be allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[10 June 2013]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) mainstreams the promotion of the role of women in arms control, particularly in preventing and combating the illicit trade in firearms, through the development of holistic programmes aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Since 2011, UNODC has been implementing its global firearms project, which comprises a wide range of activities and areas of work, such as legislative development, training and capacity-building, institutional and technical support in marking, record keeping, transfer controls and related fields, as well as strengthening the participation and oversight functions of civil society and parliamentarians, to prevent and combat the illicit trade in firearms. The project has targeted (inter alia) women criminal justice practitioners. The project also includes dedicated activities aimed at strengthening the participation and oversight function of civil society organizations and parliamentarians, where, again, the role of women is underscored. UNODC promotes the role of women through its involvement and active participation in the review and analysis of national firearms control legislation. UNODC provided the framework for women's contributions to become part of a regional legislative harmonization process by organizing two regional conferences in which both female criminal justice practitioners and civil society representatives participated and presented and defended their contributions. UNODC is developing a comprehensive firearms curriculum that includes the gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue. The planned capacity-building activities, based on the curriculum, focus on developing skills for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and target both female and male criminal justice practitioners.

UNODC organized, together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, an expert group meeting on promoting the application and implementation of the 1990 Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials in Vienna on 10 and 11 April 2013. There were 14 women among the experts, and the meeting recommended that the review of implementation of the Basic Principles also examine the need for specific guidance on the use of force with regard to women.